

7.0 SITE TREE INFORMATION

Site trees are a measure of site productivity expressed by the height to age relationship of dominant and co-dominant trees. If suitable site trees are available, site tree data are required for every accessible forest land condition class defined on a plot. An individual site tree may be used for more than one condition class where differences in condition classes are not the result of differences in site productivity. For example, when different condition classes are caused solely due to differences in reserved status, owner class, and/or disturbance-related differences in density (e.g., heavily thinned vs. unthinned), a site tree may be used for more than one condition class. When in doubt, do not use a site tree for more than one condition class.

7.1 SITE TREE SELECTION

Select at least 1 site tree for each accessible forest land condition class; select tree from a species common to the condition class being sampled, based on regional or local tree species selection criteria (Appendix 4 lists preferred site tree species by region). Select trees off the subplot where possible. Use only trees that have remained in a dominant or co-dominant crown position throughout their entire life span. If possible, trees should be 5.0 inches in diameter, or larger, and at least 20 years old. Trees that are visibly damaged, trees with ring patterns that exhibit signs of suppression, and trees with rotten cores should be rejected. If there are no acceptable site trees, record that in the plot notes and leave this section blank.

7.2 SITE TREE DATA VARIABLES

R701 SITE TREE NUMBER

Record the number of each site tree collected on the “Sample Location Page.”

When collected: Site trees that have an azimuth and distance recorded

Field width: 1 digit

Values: 1-6

ITEM 7021 CONDITION CLASS LIST (CORE 7.2.1)

List all CONDITION CLASSES that the site index data from this tree represent.

When collected: All site trees

Field width: 5 digits

Values: 1 to 9

ITEM 7022 SPECIES (CORE 7.2.2)

Use the same procedures described in Section 5.0 (Appendix 4 lists preferred site tree species by region).

When collected: All site trees

Field width: 3 digits

Values: See Appendix 4

ITEM 7023 DIAMETER (CORE 7.2.3)

Use the same procedures described in Section 5.0.

When Collected: All site trees

Field width: 3 digits (xx.y)

Values: 050 to 300

ITEM 7024 SITE TREE LENGTH (CORE 7.2.4)

With a clinometer or other approved instrument, measure the total length of the site tree from the ground to the top of the tree. Record to the nearest 1.0 ft. SITE TREE LENGTH must be measured; no estimates are permitted on site trees.

When collected: All site trees

Field width: 3 digits

Values: 001 to 175

ITEM 7025 TREE AGE AT DIAMETER (CORE 7.2.5)

Record the tree age as determined by an increment sample. Bore the tree at the point of diameter measurement with an increment borer. Count the rings between the outside edge of the core and the pith. Do not add years to get total age.

When collected: All site trees

Field width: 3 digits

Values: 015 to 120

ITEM 7026 SITE TREE NOTES (CORE 7.2.6)

Record notes pertaining to an individual site tree.

When collected: All site trees as necessary

Field width: alphanumeric character field

Values: English language words, phrases and numbers

ITEM 7027 SUBPLOT NUMBER (CORE OPTIONAL 7.2.7)

Record the subplot number to which the site tree is referenced.

When collected: All site trees

Field width: 1 digit

Values:

- 1 Center subplot
- 2 North subplot
- 3 Southeast subplot
- 4 Southwest subplot

ITEM 7028 AZIMUTH (CORE OPTIONAL 7.2.8)

Record the AZIMUTH from the subplot center on the back of the draw page; sight the center of the base of each tree with a compass. Record AZIMUTH to the nearest degree. Use 360 for north.

When collected: Optional

Field width: 3 digits

Values: 001 to 360

ITEM 7029 HORIZONTAL DISTANCE (CORE OPTIONAL 7.2.9)

Record the measured HORIZONTAL DISTANCE, to the nearest 0.1 ft, from the subplot center to the pith of the tree at the base on the back of the draw page.

When Collected: Optional

Field width: 4 digits (xxx.y)

Values: 000.1 to 200.0